

THE HALE FOUNDATION

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A BIPARTISAN TRIBUTE TO THE CIA

During floor debate in the U.S. Senate on November 7, 1985, Senator David F. Durenberger (R-MN) Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, and Senator Ernest F. Hollings (D-S.C.), a member of the Appropriations Committee, among others, had highly complimentary things to say about the Central Intelligence Agency and the dedicated men and women who serve the Agency. At this time, particularly, with conflicting media reports on the quality of the work of the CIA, these bipartisan remarks help put the matter of CIA's reputation and its employees in better perspective.

The Hale Foundation, believing in a strong U.S. intelligence capability, reprints these remarks as a reminder of the true nature of the work of the CIA, and especially its overseas officers, and the valuable contribution made by them to our nation's survival:

Senator Durenberger. "As you are aware, the CIA has come under a great deal of public and congressional scrutiny in the past decade and certainly in the past week. Unfortunately, what you are not seeing or hearing are the thousands of actions they are doing right on a daily basis. In particular, we are consistently demanding that our intelligence officers abroad provide more and more information on hostile intentions, especially those of terrorists.

"This involves risk. More and more of our CIA field personnel are being subjected to threats and abuse. Two years ago we witnessed an example of this when a number of them were killed by a terrorist bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut. And as their assignment became more hazardous and demanding, the special mental and physical requirements necessary of the intelligence officer increase dramatically.

"To meet this standard the CIA must continually replace its officers overseas with younger personnel whose identities are not known and who can stand up to the stresses of their environment.

"Our intelligence officers face hazards unknown to other overseas or law enforcement personnel. They and their families must lead their lives undercover, never telling friends and